June 22, 1900. — 6000 — #19. = Delta Mare.

Annual Report of Young People's Department

1899...1900

PRESBYTERIAN HOME MISSIONS

156 FIFTH AVENUE...NEW YORK CITY

Contributions from Young People's Organizations.

SYNODS.	AMOUNTS.	
	1899.	1900.
Atlantic	$22.99	$4.00
Baltimore	2,204.98	2,157.85
California	1,861.37	2,001.70
Catawba	4.10	18.71
Colorado	391.17	596.08
Illinois	1,886.87	1,917.18
Indiana	1,293.00	1,477.16
Indian Ter	76.21	58.94
Iowa	1,666.54	1,536.69
Kansas	742.84	672.31
Kentucky	335.16	272.70
Michigan	1,310.03	1,305 05
Minnesota	1,182.59	1,477.25
Missouri	516.82	634.81
Montana	59.00	82.00
Nebraska	389.49	458.40
New Jersey	4,248.43	4,670.33
New Mexico	27.00	70.46
New York	11,243.02	11,791.28
North Dakota	32.47	91.26
Ohio	4,073.03	3,812.74
Oregon	89.35	191.72
Pennsylvania	10,203.84	10,624.99
South Dakota	177.63	299.37
Tennessee	169.80	178.21
Texas	156.75	111.17
Utah	98 74	105.17
Washington	128.92	171.96
Wisconsin	622.83	659.05

ANNUAL REPORT.

Young People's Department.

If it were necessary to reduce to its lowest terms the report of the work accomplished during the past year by the Young People's Department of the Board of Home Missions, it could be given in one sentence; yes, in three words; steady, intelligent growth.

The hope which accompanied the purpose of General Assembly, when in 1896 the responsibility for educating the young people in Home Missions was placed in the hands of the Home Mission organization of women, is being fully realized. The results are progressive in character and considerable in amount, as shown by the figures. There are no backward steps on record, and this year the total contributions from C. E. societies amount to $25,151.84, an increase of $1,681.27. Of this increase $997.19 is the gain in offerings designated for the "special objects" presented by the General Assembly's Board—or for "Evangelization"—thus demonstrating the benefit of working through our presbyterial system.

Other Young People's societies (Bands, Westminster Leagues, etc.), have made an advance of $566.49, giving us a total of $22,202.39.

The entire contributions from all Young People's organizations amount to $47,354.23, an increase over last year of $2,243.76.

To our faithful and devoted co-workers, the synodical and presbyterial Young People's Secretaries, who have been untiring in their efforts to carry out the recommendations from headquarters, is due the credit for this successful advance in contributions, and in the number of contributing societies.

After all, we are only showing our growth *in spots*, a few presbyteries bringing up the figures. In one presbytery a gain of 93 per cent. is reported, and the secretary says: "This is the result, not of asking for money, but of simply presenting the needs;" and in order to do this, she wrote two hundred personal letters, beside making visits to her societies. In two presbyteries, these patient officers have secured contributions from every society but one, and the amounts have been doubled. These are but instances of the earnest, consecrated service of these officers to whom you have intrusted the work in your corner of the Presbyterian Church.

Several years ago fears were expressed in presbyterial circles that Mission Bands were being superseded by C. E. societies; but, judging from the reports of the past year, if such has been the case, a reaction has set in, and Mission Bands are on the increase; some of those reported dead have been brought to life, and the work accomplished by them adds largely to the receipts of the Woman's Board, to which they are auxiliary, the appropriations for scholarships, etc., amounting to over $20,000.

It is true that some Mission Bands and Junior C. E. societies have disbanded for lack

of leaders. Where does the responsibility lie? Companies are formed, and stand in line, waiting for a captain's orders to march forward. "Pray *ye* the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth *laborers* into His harvest."

"Special objects" have proven essential factors. Experience has shown that it is usually a choice between assigning a special object or not receiving the gift; hence in each synod, special objects are presented the young people, and they are asked to be responsible for certain salaries, while offerings toward the general fund are constantly urged, and are largely on the increase. The "special object" means definite knowledge, definite work, definite prayer, and is often the beginning of a full comprehension of the great work.

To the C. E. societies a choice of objects is presented, the salary of a Home Missionary or a missionary teacher, or both. Few changes were made in these recommendations last year, but whenever they were necessary the Young People's Secretaries responded most heartily. As new work, and in addition to the suggestions from headquarters, Iowa C. E.'s, and Cincinnati and Red River Presbyterial Unions have sent missionaries to Porto Rico, and Nebraska has assumed half the salary of a missionary among the Mormons.

In order to prevent confusion in the minds of the Juniors, it has been decided to present but one general object for next year—the Training School at Sitka, Alaska—unless they have already pledged in other directions.

It is essential that our women have a clear understanding of the position of the young people regarding the work of the Board of Home Missions and the Woman's Board, for it is very evident that great care should be

exercised in presenting Home Missions to Christian Endeavor societies. Young People's funds are easily diverted from the regular channels, and the numerous appeals made to them are ofttimes confusing and prove disastrous to the pledged work.

Frequent letters to Presbyterial Young People's Secretaries have brought us in closer touch with the work, but the many changes among these officers are to be deplored. This month forty such new elections have been reported (if only all were *reported* it would help the work!) and as one Secretary has said, "the trouble is, nothing stays done." Another expresses herself in this way: "We can send out letters and leaflets, and urge better work, but we cannot know the local conditions and the wise thing to do in each society." Therefore, to the older presbyterial officers we "commend" the Young People's Secretary, "that ye receive her in the Lord as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you."

Instead of the "Young People's Hour," several presbyterial presidents have given one entire session of the annual meeting—sometimes the evening meeting—into the hands of the Young People's Secretary, and a much larger attendance of the young people is the result. One president said: "We gave a definite part on the program to representatives of various Young People's societies and they all came. Consequently it was the best meeting we ever had."

Until recent years a Presbyterial Young People's Missionary Rally was almost unheard of; but these "rallies" are here to stay, and are a most helpful part of our work. A special feature of C. E. conventions is the denomi-

national meeting, at which time the specific work of our Board can be brought before the young people; and the secretary from headquarters has responded to many calls to present Home Missions at these, and other representative gatherings.

Of the various expedients tried for holding the interest of the young people nothing is more fruitful of results than the general missionary letters from each Home Mission field, as furnished by this Department. The very large increase in the demand for these letters shows their value; over 14,000 have been printed and distributed during the year, the large majority mailed singly, and each one registered in our books. These letters are prepared three times a year and sent wherever pledges to the work have been made. As these pledges hold only for one year, a reminder notice is inclosed with the third letter, asking for a renewal.

In addition to these general letters, thousands of pages of personal letters from missionaries were cyclostyled and mailed to societies or individuals contributing scholarships or shares in mission schools, or to a group of societies or Sunday schools furnishing a special salary.

Gifts from Sunday schools amount to $37,362.37, contributed as follows:

To the Home Board, -	$18,120.35
To the Woman's Board,	19,242.02

This shows a total gain of $1,215.91, but while the *special day* offerings have increased, attention is called to the falling off in systematic contributions toward the general work of the Board, and this is the minor note in our song of praise. Last June a letter was sent to presbyterial corresponding secretaries in reference to the

special Sunday school offering recommended by General Assembly for mission school work. In response to this letter, in many of the presbyteries some one of the officers volunteered to send a personal appeal to the Sunday school superintendent with the sample program prepared and furnished by the Woman's Board, and this effort contributed to the increase of over $2,100 from Sunday schools toward mission school work.

These facts and figures are encouraging, for behind all we see a deeper spiritual growth, a longing for souls, a desire to enter the open doors and conquer new territory for Christ; and while we praise God for the visible signs, we—Secretaries for the Young People—feel our responsibility for the host who have "neither part nor lot in this matter," and realize that *we* must be full of the Spirit or our plea will be ineffectual.

> "Beloved, let us love so well
> Our work shall still be better for our love,
> And still our love be sweeter for our work,
> And both, commended, for the sake of each
> By all true workers."

M. JOSEPHINE PETRIE, Secretary.

MAY 18th, 1900.